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STATINTL

Swedish Spy For Russians Gets Life Term

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Col. Stig Wennerstrom, former Swedish air attache in Washington, was sentenced today to life imprisonment and loss of his rank as colonel in the Swedish air force reserve for his 14 years of espionage for the Soviet intelligence service.

He also was fined \$98,700 which is said to be the minimum amount he was paid by the Russians. Wennerstrom is believed to have received further undisclosed sums which he is suspected of having deposited in banks abroad.

The two-month trial of the Swedish officer culminated this morning when the 124-page text of the judgment was sold to the press at the Stockholm Courthouse for \$25 a copy. Swedish newspapermen obtained it on credit, but foreign correspondents were required to pay cash.

There was no session of the court but Wennerstrom was informed of the sentence in Langholm Prison by his attorney, Carl Erik Lindahl. He has three weeks in which to appeal, but since the verdict is based on his own confessions it is considered unlikely that he will.

A life term usually amounts to 15 years in prison but the 57-year-old officer could be released after a minimum of 10 years.

The judgment reviewed Wennerstrom's espionage and maintained that he first spied for NATO but his sympathies turned in the opposite direction and he became a member of the mighty Soviet intelligence service.

The sentencing of Wennerstrom precedes by only four days the start of Soviet Premier Khrushchev's long-contemplated Scandinavian tour and by 10 days his arrival in Sweden.

More details were learned today regarding Wennerstrom's activities immediately preceding his arrest. He and his wife and his daughter Christine were dinner guests on the eve of his arrest last June at the home of secretary of the American Embassy here.

The Swedish police have disclosed that Wennerstrom left the party for his last meeting with his Russian contact, Georgij Baranovski, first secretary of the Soviet Embassy who later was expelled from Sweden for his complicity.

Wennerstrom subsequently returned to the American party where he remained until after midnight. The Swedish police who were shadowing Wennerstrom planned to arrest him after he left the American home but higher officials decided this would be "inappropriate" and the arrest was postponed until the next morning.



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STIG WENNERSTROM
... sentenced as spy